

~~SECRET~~

EYES ONLY

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SUBJECT: Current Anti-American Campaign
in Soviet Propaganda

The President has noted several recent reports of anti-American propaganda in Soviet news media. In his telegram number 100 of January 8, Ambassador Beam suggested that we remind Soviet officials of our concern about this trend. The President requests that this recommendation be acted on.

Henry A. Kissinger

HSonnenfeldt:mm:1/16/70

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#6478

SECRET/EYES ONLY

ACTION
January 16, 1980

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. KISSINGER

FROM: Helmut Sonnenfeldt

SUBJECT: Current Anti-American Campaign in Soviet Propaganda

As requested, attached for your signature is a memorandum to Secretary Rogers telling him that the President wishes Soviet officials to be made aware of our concern over current anti-US propaganda in the Soviet press, (Tab A). Is the classification really necessary?

RECOMMENDATION

That you sign the memo to the Secretary of State at Tab A.

HS:mm

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ACTION EUR-25

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SUBJECT: SAMPLE OF SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF US SCENE

REF: MOSCOW 3572, JULY 17, 1969

1. WHILE OCCASIONAL EXAMPLES OF POSITIVE SOVIET MEDIA REPORTING ABOUT US SCENE APPEAR IN PRINT (POLLO PROGRAM, SINDHOV PIECE DEC. 26 PRAVDA) THESE FLEETING FAVORABLE GLIMPSES CONTINUE TO BE OUTWEIGHTED BY LARGE VOLUME OF REPETITIVE DISTORTIONS WHICH PERMEATE SOVIET PRESS COVERAGE OF US FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC DEVELOPMENTS. SOVIET READER, IF HE BELIEVES HIS NEWSPAPERS, CAN ONLY CONCLUDE THAT US IS SICK, DEGENERATE SOCIETY WITHOUT HOPE OF SOLVING ITS SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. ON FOREIGN SCENE, HE IS TOLD US IS AGGRESSIVE, RAPACIOUS POWER BENT ON DOMINATING ITS ALLIES AND THIRD WORLD, WHILE SEEKING TO SUBVERT AND DESTROY "SOCIALIST CAMP".

2. WHILE NONE OF THIS IS NEW, THE EMBASSY THINKS IT IS WORTH DRAWING THE DEPT'S ATTENTION TO THE CURRENT EXTENT AND VOLUME OF THE ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA, PARTICULARLY IN A PERIOD WHEN WE ARE ENGAGED IN A VARIETY OF TALKS WITH MOSCOW. AT THE SAME TIME EMBASSY OFFICERS SERVING A SECOND TOUR HERE DO NOT SENSE MAJOR QUALITATIVE INCREASE IN THE ANTI-AMERICANISM IN THE PRESS OVER PREVIOUS PERIODS, ALTHOUGH THE INTENSITY AND VOLUME FLUCTUATE. TO CONVEY FLAVOR OF TENDENTIOUS SOVIET PRESS REPORTING ON A FAIRLY REPRESENTATIVE DAY, EMBASSY SUBMITS FOLLOWING REVIEW OF THE US



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ITEMS IN IZVESTIYA FOR EVENING OF JAN 7 AND MOSCOW MORNING PRESS JAN 8.

3. DURING THIS PERIOD IZVESTIYA AND PRAVDA NOTE PENTAGON PROPOSAL TO MODIFY SAFEGUARD PROGRAM, INDICATING THAT THIS SIGNIFIES BOTH ACCELERATED PACE OF DEPLOYMENT AND HIGHER SPENDING FOR ABM SYSTEM. IZVESTIYA REPORTS THAT COSA NOSTRA MAKES \$40 BILLION PER YEAR, HAS 200,000 MEMBERS, AND IS LARGEST BUSINESS ENTERPRISE IN US. IN CHARACTERISTIC ATTACK ON US OVERSEAS INVESTMENT SAME PAPER DEVOTES THIRD OF PAGE TO ALLEGED GULF OIL "SINS" IN BOLIVIA.

4. SOVIET PRESS DISTORTION OF US RACE PROBLEMS IS EXEMPLIFIED BY ARTICLES IN PRAVDA AND SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA DECRYING "POLICE TERROR" AGAINST BLACK PANTHERS, ALLEGING POLICE TORTURE OF NEGROES, AND CHARGING THAT THE CURRENT INVESTIGATION OF PANTHERS IS A WHITEWASH. TRUD AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDA FULMINATE AGAINST "POLITICAL MURDER" OF LABOR LEADER YABLONSKI, AND TASS IN ENGLISH ASSERTS POLICE BEING DILATORY IN INVESTIGATION.

5. KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA HAS MAJOR ARTICLE DEVOTED TO US "REPRESSION" OF INDIANS, CENTERED ON ALCATRAZ OCCUPATION. PRAVDA QUARTER PAGE ARTICLE BASED ON STORY IN AN ITALIAN WEEKLY CHARGES US WITH STEALING NAZI GOLD IN 1945 (WHICH HAD BEEN SEIZED BY GERMANS " ON EASTERN FRONT") AND REFUSING TO DISCUSS ITS WHEREABOUTS.

6. VICIOUS ANTI-US CARTOONS AIMED AT US INVOLVEMENT IN ASIA AND DRAFT LOTTERY ARE TYPICAL OF RECENT TREND IN THIS FORM PROPAGANDA- FEATURED IN IZVESTIYA AND KRASNAYA ZVEZDS. IZVESTIYA ALSO CARRIES NEWS PHOTO OF TWO GIs DRAGGING A BODY UNDER LABEL "AMERICAN ACTS OF VIOLENCE AGAINST SVN VILLAGERS."

7. "FULL US SUPPORT FOR ISRAELI AGGRESSION", AND "GROWING US-ISRAELI MILITARY ALLIANCE" PROVIDE MAJOR THEMES FOR FRONT PAGE IZVESTIYA REPORTING ABOUT MIDDLE EAST - SIMILAR SENTIMENTS ECHOED IN PRAVDA COMMENTATOR'S COLUMN. IZVESTIYA ALSO ATTACKS VICE PRESIDENT AGNEW AND HIS ASIAN TRIP IN EDITORIAL, WHILE DEVOTING QUARTER PAGE TO US VIETNAM "ATROCITIES" AND REVIVAL OF ANTI-WAR MOVEMENT IN US.

8. IN ONLY "STRAIGHT" REPORTING FOR ONE DAY PERIOD, BOTH PRAVDA AND IZVESTIYA MAKE BRIEF MENTION, WITHOUT COMMENT, OF SEN. MCCARTHY'S



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RECEPTION BY SPIRIDONOV AND PALETSKIS.

9. ABOVE LEAVES OUT OF ACCOUNT TV COVERAGE OF THE U.S. WHICH OVER THE PAST THREE MONTHS HAS BEEN UNIFORMLY FAR MORE VICIOUS. AT PRESENT WE SEEM TO BE IN AN UPSWING PERIOD OF ANTI-AMERICAN PROPAGANDA WHICH SEVERAL COLLEAGUES HAVE COMMENTED UPON, ESPECIALLY THE GERMAN WHO SEES US TAKING THE NUMBER ONE SPOT FORMERLY OCCUPIED BY THE FRG. SOME OF THE MATERIAL IS OF COURSE OF U.S. MANUFACTURE IN THE FORM OF PLAYBACKS FROM THE AMERICAN PRESS. WHILE PROTESTS WOULD BE UNAVAILING, THE TIME MAY NEVERTHELESS BE AT HAND WHEN IT WOULD BE WORTH WHILE TO REMIND SOVIET OFFICIALS OF OUR AWARENESS OF THE PRESENT TREND AND ITS POTENTIAL REPRECUSIONS. DECON 1/8/77. BEAM